

SYNOPSIS OF EPISODE 12

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The Blue Top!

"THE CAMP OF THE CHARKAS"

AUG - 1921

Written by Hope Loring and Joe Brandt - Suggested by Duke Korne

When Tim Weeks sees and hears the explosion, he realizes that John has turned the gas valve but cannot understand just what caused the explosion. He accuses John of the crime but John only laughs. Any answer Tim might have made is stopped by Jane's frantic cry- "Landslide!" John, Jane and Tim are forced to ride for their lives, just escaping the slide. In the cave, Ann succeeds in digging herself free from the fallen rocks and dirt. She finds that Robert is pinned under a rock. Tarka's efforts to free Robert result in another fall of rock which cut Ann off from them, leaving her in a small corner of the cave. She can call to Robert and Tarka but finds no way to join them. Searching about for a way of escape she sees a tiny passage through the rocks and manages to crawl through this passage into the tunnel. She works her way out to the trail and there finds the map, dropped by Tim in his flight to escape the slide. Baxter and his two Indian guides have heard the explosion and have ridden hard to the cliff. Ann sees Baxter coming and quickly runs back into the tunnel, makes her way to the cave and calls through the rocks to Robert and Tarka that Baxter is outside. Robert and Tarka renew their efforts to dig a way out of their cave, begging Ann to stay hidden. Meanwhile, Tim has discovered the loss of his map and John volunteers to go back for it while Tim and Jane wait for him. Baxter sees John coming and hiding behind a large rock, gets the drop on John. With hot words, he accuses John of having double-crossed him. John says that he can explain and that it is no time for them to quarrel. But Baxter is furious and calls to his Indians to capture John. As the Indians come closer, John sees that they wear the insignia of the Charkas, his own tribe. He demands their obedience and much to Baxter's surprise, the Indians signify their willingness to take orders from John. John laughs at Baxter's discomfort and then explains his scheme to Baxter- the successful attempt to pass Jane off as Ann Calvin. Baxter and John renew their friendship and agree to work together. John starts into the tunnel to search for the map. There he sees a fresh footprint and realizes that Ann must have escaped death and is hiding someplace near. He follows the footprint down to the cave and sees that Ann has crawled out through a hole in

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the top of the cave. Carefully he makes his way back to the trail and informs Baxter. Then John sends one of the Indians on to Jane with a note to follow the Indian, taking Tim, on to the Charka camp. The other Indian, he sends into the tunnel, while he and Baxter climb up over the rocks to search for Ann. In a few moments, after a thrilling chase over the rocks, they succeed in capturing her and lead her down to the trail, just as Robert and Tarka come out on the trail, having dug themselves free. Baxter and John also capture Robert and Tarka. John takes the map from Ann and tells her that he will take her on with him. Robert and Tarka are tied together and thrown over a steep sand hill, much to the amusement of John and Baxter.

That night, John and Baxter are sitting in the camp of the Charkas, pering over the map, planning to get an early start in the morning, when Robert and Tarka are brought in by an Indian who found them. Tarka and Robert are claimed by the medicine man of the tribe as sacrifices in celebration of John's return to the tribe. The ceremony is set for the morning. When Jane sees Tarka, she quickly covers her face that he may not see her. Ann is locked in one of the huts, a prisoner. When all the camp is asleep, Jane creeps to Ann's hut and frees her. She takes Ann to where a wagon is standing and asks her to sit there until she brings her friends. Then Jane goes to Tarka and Robert and frees them, explaining to Tarka that she is of his tribe, the Bear Claws, and that she has joined John in the hope of getting back to her tribe. But Baxter has seen Ann near the wagon. He follows her and captures her, tying her to one of the wagon wheels while he goes back to get John. As Robert, Tarka and Jane come toward the wagon the horses are frightened and start to run. Robert throws his rope, hoping to bring the horses to a stop. But the wagon strikes against a stone and the wheel to which Ann is lashed comes off and rolls down the steep hill, plunging over the cliff.

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